

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE**

***Office of Business Liaison***

**Public inquiries:** Employer hotline 800-357-2099 Fax 202-305-2523 E-mail [office.business.liaison@usdoj.gov](mailto:office.business.liaison@usdoj.gov)  
Order INS Forms 800-870-3676 Website [www.usdoj.gov/ins/](http://www.usdoj.gov/ins/)

**IN MAY 1998, INS BEGAN ISSUING A NEW TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION CARD TO LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. SINCE THE NEW CARD IS USED BY MANY EMPLOYEES TO SATISFY FORM I-9 REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT, AWARENESS OF THE NEW CARD, ITS NEW NAME AND ITS GENERAL APPEARANCE, IS IMPORTANT. EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THE PUBLIC IS TO KNOW HOW EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE I-551 (WHICH MAY BE NOTED AS "LIST A" DOCUMENTS ON THE FORMS I-9 OF EXISTING EMPLOYEES) SHOULD BE REGARDED. EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE I-551 MAY STILL BE PRESENTED TO SATISFY EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

**For More Details: Contact this office for official information products announcing the new card. Also, look for internet information on the INS web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/ins/>**

**NEW NAME! PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD ("Green Card")**

This is a change of name for the Form I-551, the Alien Registration Receipt Card, which is issued to lawful permanent resident and conditional residents. Earlier versions of this card were entitled RESIDENT ALIEN CARD. These cards may also be referred to as Alien Registration Receipt Cards or "Green Cards." The new card will be issued and used for the same purposes as previous versions of the I-551.

**FORM #**

The new PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD will have the same Form number, I-551, as existing RESIDENT ALIEN CARDS.

**APPEARANCE**

The name PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD will appear within a green band at the top front of the white card. Similar to the new I-766 Employment Authorization Document (EAD), it will have the general appearance of a credit card, including a digitized photo of the lawful permanent resident and several hologram features.

**PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THE FORM I-551**

Previous versions of the I-551, entitled RESIDENT ALIEN CARD, will remain valid until their expiration dates.

**EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION**

The new PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD, like its predecessors, will be a "List A" document for I-9 purposes. However, employers may not demand that a foreign-born employee present this new document to establish his or her work authorization and identity as a lawful permanent resident. As in the past, employees must be given the choice to present any "List A" document or combination of "List B and C" documents that meet employment eligibility verification requirement.